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### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please cancel Claims 11-19 without prejudice and insert therefore new Claims 20-27. This listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-19 (Canceled)

20. (new) A compound of the formula I, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:

$$X^1$$
 $X^2$ 
 $Y-Z$ 
(I)

wherein:

X<sup>1</sup> represents hydrogen, halogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl, trifluoromethyl or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy;

X<sup>2</sup> represents hydrogen or halogen;

Y represents a chemical bond, an oxygen atom, or a -NH- linkage;

Z represents an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl group;

 $R^1$  represents hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, halo( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, dihalo( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, dihydroxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, di( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, cyano( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkoxycarbonyl( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  $C_{3-7}$  cycloalkyl, heteroaryl,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl-heteroaryl, heteroaryl( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, formyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkylcarbonyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkoxycarbonyl or -CR<sup>4</sup>=NOR<sup>5</sup>;

R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> independently represent hydrogen, or a heterocyclic group.

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# 21. (new) The compound of Claim 20 of the formula IIA:

$$X^{12}$$
(IIA)

wherein:

 $X^{11}$  represents hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, methyl, trifluoromethyl or methoxy;  $X^{12}$  represents hydrogen or fluoro;

 $R^{11}$  represents hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, halo( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, dihalo( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, dihydroxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$  alkoxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, di( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, cyano( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkoxycarbonyl( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl,  $C_{3-7}$  cycloalkyl, heteroaryl,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl-heteroaryl, heteroaryl( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, formyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkylcarbonyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkoxycarbonyl or  $-CR^4$ =NOR $^5$ ;

R<sup>4</sup> represents hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl; and

 $R^5$  represents hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, hydroxy( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl or  $di(C_{1-6})$ alkylamino( $C_{1-6}$ )alkyl.

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## 22. (new) The compound of Claim 21 of the formula IIB:

wherein R<sup>6</sup> represents hydrogen or fluoro.

## 23. (new) The compound of Claim 21 of the formula IIC:

$$X^{12}$$

$$X^{12}$$

$$X^{12}$$

$$X^{13}$$
(IIC)

wherein R<sup>7</sup> represents hydrogen, fluoro, cyano or methyl.

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24. (new) The compound of Claim 21 of the formula IID:

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
R^{11} & N & N \\
\hline
 & N & N \\
\hline
 & X^{12} & R^7 \\
\hline
 & X^{11} & N & R^8
\end{array}$$

(IID)

wherein R<sup>8</sup> represents hydrogen or fluoro.

25. (new) A compound which is 2'-fluoro-5'-(7-trifluoromethylpyrido[2,3-c]pyridazin-4-yl)biphenyl-2-carbonitrile, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

26. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of Claim 20, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

27. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of Claims 25, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.